

From: David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 2/23/2012 5:01:11 PM

To: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
CC:
Subject: Re: three questions for fracking story

Hi Jeanne,

Here are the answers to your questions.

Q: Please give background and update on status of well-testing in Dimock, Pa.

EPA is in the Dimock community sampling and providing water as a direct result of requests from Dimock residents and based on monitoring data, developed largely by Cabot, that led us to conclude that there were health concerns that required action. Our priority is the health of the people there, and our actions are guided entirely by science and the law. We are providing water to a handful of households because data developed by Cabot itself that raises concerns that they are being exposed to hazardous substances at levels of health concern. We are conducting monitoring as a prudent step to investigate these concerns and develop a sound scientific basis for assessing the need for further action. This is consistent with steps we would take in any situation where we are presented with potential health risks to citizens under the federal laws we are charged to carry out.

The Dimock investigation is focused solely on water quality in residential wells. We believe further data is needed to get a more complete picture of the water quality situation in these homes. So far, at least 57 homes have been sampled by EPA.

Q: Please clarify the focus of the investigation in Washington County, Pa.

In Washington County, Pa., EPA has conducted inspections at active industrial operations including well pads and compressor stations. These inspections were done as part of our multi-media enforcement program, which develops comprehensive approaches to address complex and emerging environmental problems. Multi-media inspections are conducted in various industrial sectors to determine their compliance with multiple federal environmental laws including for air, water and hazardous waste. Washington County was chosen for these multi-media inspections because there is a significant amount of oil and natural gas development occurring there. While natural gas operators employ various safeguards to minimize the risks inherent to the industry, legitimate concerns have emerged regarding potential environmental impacts.

Q: Two women from Butler County, Pa., **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
asked the federal EPA to step in and investigate well development in their neighborhood in Connoquenessing Township. The women, neighbors, have had problems with well water and have gotten sick, gotten rashes from showers, etc. They were not satisfied with response from the state DEP. They never got a response to their requests for help.

EPA has received correspondence from a number of citizens expressing concern regarding families in Connoquenessing Township, Butler County. We are currently reviewing the correspondence.

Best,

David Sternberg
Press Officer
U.S.EPA

From: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
To: David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/21/2012 03:08 PM
Subject: three questions for fracking story

1. Please give background and update on status of well-testing in Dimock, Pa.

2. Please clarify the focus of the investigation in Washington County, Pa.

3. Two women from Butler County, Pa., **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**¹² asked the federal EPA to step in and investigate well development in their neighborhood in Connoquenessing Township. The women, neighbors, have had problems with well water and have gotten sick, gotten rashes from showers, etc. They were not satisfied with response from the state DEP. They never got a response to their requests for help.